

PRESIDENT: Yes. Okay, Senator Schmit, then Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, again, I want to reemphasize my deep concern about some of the questions that have been raised here this morning. I concur with much of what has been said by the opponents of the bill, and I read Senator Rod Johnson's bill in which he opposes the bill, and I can see shades of my own past experiences in all of that. And someone said once, if you don't learn from history, you are condemned to repeat it. I am not anxious at this time to surrender the industry as a meat producing industry to the professional people, which we may be doing, but I want to emphasize what I said earlier. Food safety has become an increasing area of concern to the Congress. Senator Patrick Leahy has a broad group which is a broad-based bill, which probably won't go anywhere, but which emphasized very heavily a total overall plan of the meat and poultry inspection system. There are consumer groups which are demanding tougher regulations. They don't expect to have any quick success, but let me tell you, ladies and gentlemen, I was at a meeting last night of the Saunders County Livestock Feeders Association. I listened to speeches there by those individuals who are concerned about what is happening in the livestock industry and the lack of accountability, they claim, for those of us who produce livestock using various feed additives. Now we all know that as individual producers, and as an industry, we do not have the access to the media that others do. One so-called consumer protector can get more press than all of us in this body, and including the Governor. To give you a good example, a young man named Sam Welsch, very dedicated against the low-level nuclear waste, if you were to read the press, you would assume that Mr. Welsch is a nuclear engineer that has all of the credentials for determining whether or not it is safe to store low-level waste within the State of Nebraska, and that the Governor, and the Legislature, and the Department of Environmental Control, and the judicial system, and NPPD, and OPPD, all the people who have been operating it for 40 years, have no ability whatsoever, but he gets press and he is dedicated and he has got a following and you know what happens. Those of us in elected office feel that kind of pressure. That is going to happen in the livestock industry. Now that could be fatal to us as producers. So what I am telling you here today is let us not just shove the bill under the rug and say it is going to go away, we will take care of it ourselves, we will handle it, because we may not get the